

# ARIZONA **BINGO REVIEW**



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## SUMMARY OF RULE CHANGES

After 14 years we finally have a few changes to the rules. Several definitions have been changed to allow you more freedom.

The definition of "Bingo" has been changed to allow a sequence of numbers on a card to become a winner. You no longer have to require a pre-designated pattern. One example would be to designate the first person to cover ten spots (or any other number of spots) on a bingo card as having a valid "bingo". This would also allow you to use the specialty cards such as the star burst bingo card. The first person to cover the three stars on the card would be a winner.

The definition of "Card" has been changed to allow you to use almost any bingo card except the "U-Pick-Um". A card no longer has to have five rows and five columns. There can be more than one number or symbol in each block. Pull out your bingo catalog and look at all the cards. If you have any doubts about whether a card can be used or have questions about how the card can be played then give us a call.

The definition of player has been changed along with corresponding rules which allows players to purchase their own cards as well as another player's cards. The rules also

allow one player to play other players cards. Players are no longer prohibited from giving their cards to another player. An example of this would be for me to come in and buy my cards plus a friend's cards, because my friend is going to be 15 minutes late. I can play my friends card until they arrive. If during the occasion my friend has to leave, they can give me their cards and I can play them until the end of the session.

The definition of "Wild Number Bingo" no longer requires the first ball drawn from the machine to be used as the Wild Number. It also allows the same Wild Number to be used throughout the occasion instead of restricting it to one game only.

Affidavits no longer have to be notarized. In fact, none of the bingo forms we use are required to be notarized.

In the past if you designated a \$25 Turkey as the bingo prize and you had more than one winner, your only choices were to:

1. Cut the Turkey in Half,
2. Have two Chickens valued at \$12.50 each.
3. Have three Cornish Hens valued at \$8.33 each.
4. Etc.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### **Summary of Rule Changes**

*(Continued from page 1)*

New rules allow you to substitute cash or a check prize for the merchandise prize. So if you have one winner, they get the Turkey. If you have two winners each person would receive \$12.50. Three winners would receive \$8.33 each, so on and so forth.

Another great change has to do with "Inducements". Before the rule changed you could offer players a bingo card if they brought a new player to your game, or give a player who attended your occasions 5 times in a row, a bingo card at no additional charge to the player. Now you can actually give free bingo cards as an inducement. Examples would be giving a card to a player who comes to your bingo occasion on their birthday, or giving a card to all moms on Mothers' Day or dads on Fathers' Day. Another great change is that you no longer have to write us and get permission to offer an inducement. If you have questions about the legality of an inducement, feel free to call us.

And finally, you no longer have to report the name and address of bingo prize winners on the financial report.

Other changes include:

- The rules now state that you cannot tip the bingo workers: R15-233.
- The Bingo Section will now accept by U.S. mail, email or fax all changes made to a license.
- The bingo occasion begins when persons are admitted to the building or premises for the purpose of playing bingo.
- No raffles of any kind are permitted by statute.
- Class A licensees no longer have to apply for a new license when there is a change in ownership or a change in the name.

There are several other changes but most are minor. Once you receive your copy of the new rules, read through them and if you have question call, fax or e-mail us for clarification.

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## **WRITE YOUR BINGO LICENSE NUMBER ON EVERYTHING**

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Two or three times a year we ask licensees to write their license number on everything they send to us. We are still receiving notes, letters, and other items with no license number. It is difficult and sometimes impossible to locate the proper file without the bingo license number. Please write your bingo license number on everything you send us, including email and Faxes. It makes our job easier.

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## **WORKER AFFIDAVITS**

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When filling out worker affidavits, make sure you complete the following: 1.) Check the box for the position/s the new worker will be filling; 2.) Make sure the date the worker joined your organization is listed; 3.) Make sure the phone numbers provided are correct; and, 4.) Make sure the affidavit is signed. The rule changed recently so that affidavits no longer need to be notarized. We will now accept affidavits by email or Fax.

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## **SUSPENSION OF GAMES FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS**

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Remember, if you intend to suspend your games for the summer months or anytime, you must notify us in writing. Please give us the last date you plan to play and your projected start date. If you have a Class B or C license, you must continue to file your financial reports when due, even though you are not actually playing.

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## CHANGING THE LOCATION OF YOUR BINGO GAMES

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If you are planning on transferring your games to another location, here's the procedure you must follow:

1. Notify us in writing of your intent to change game locations.
2. We will mail you a *Change of Location* form to be filled out and returned and our *Endorsement by Local Governing Body* form, which you must submit to your local governing body.
3. Upon receipt of the approved *Endorsement by Local Governing Body* form and the *Change of Location* form, another license will be issued showing the new game location.

The transfer is not effective until the new license is issued. These procedures are for permanent location changes only: A.R.S. § 5-403.1 prohibits temporary transfers of location.

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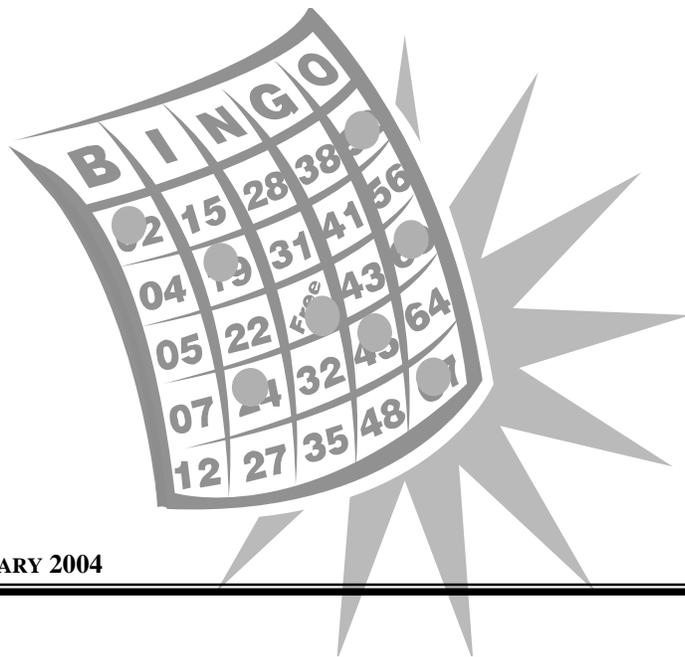
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## PLANNED WORKSHOPS

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We are looking for licensees who are willing to let us use their establishment for a bingo workshop. Please contact Sam Martin in the Tucson office at (520) 628-6438 for details. We need a convenient date and time. We'll do the rest.



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## SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

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Recently we reviewed the savings account records for one of our licensees. Here is what we discovered. Because current interest rates are so low, they only earned \$1.71 in interest for the month and then paid an \$18.00 service charge on the account. Everyone with a savings account may want to review their records and make whatever adjustments you feel necessary.

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## DID YOU KNOW

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- If you rent the premises where you play bingo, the rental amount must be a set amount and can not be based on a percentage or portion of your receipts or patronage, etc.
- Up to 6 licensees can use the same building to play bingo. Whether you own, rent or lease the building makes no difference.
- Each licensee can play up to 5 occasions a week. (Mathematically this allows 30 bingo occasion to be held in any building each week)
- Each licensee using the same equipment must be a co-owner of the equipment. No other person or entity can be a co-owner of the equipment. You can't rent or lease bingo equipment.
- Yes. You may hold back to back occasion. Why? Well this basically allows you to double your prize payout during the same time frame that you are now playing a single occasion. Want specifics? Call us.

